



# Message of the Week

*March 5-11, 2003*

*Presented by Rep. Mike Pence (R-IN)*

**“Saddam Hussein is an immediate threat to the United States and its allies and must be disarmed and removed from power.”**

- Saddam Hussein must be removed from power because of his continuing role in international terrorism that threatens the United States and its allies and Hussein’s stated goals of damaging U.S. interests in the region.
- He continues his quest for weapons of mass destruction, undeterred by economic sanctions, isolation from the civilized world, and even cruise missiles strikes on his facilities.
- Twelve years ago, Saddam Hussein agreed to disarm all weapons of mass destruction. Since then, Hussein has systematically violated that agreement and lied to the international community. He has used those weapons on his own people and has failed to account for what he has left.
- U.S. and other intelligence sources have known for some time that Iraq has materials to produce chemical and biological weapons, but Hussein has not accounted for them:
  - 26,000 liters of anthrax-enough to kill several million people
  - 38,000 liters of botulinum toxin
  - 500 tons of sarin, mustard and VX nerve agents
  - Almost 30,000 munitions capable of delivering chemical agents
  - Several mobile biological weapons labs (revealed to us by three Iraqi defectors in the late 1990s).
- The International Atomic Energy Agency confirmed in the 1990s that Saddam Hussein had an advanced nuclear weapons development program, a design for a nuclear weapon, and was working on methods of enriching uranium for a nuclear bomb. *Does anyone really think he’s doing this for peaceful purposes?*
- He continues to resist inspections and deceive the international community.
  - In the last 4 months alone, Iraq has fired upon American and British planes enforcing the no-fly-zones 330 times. Since the no-fly-zones were raised in 1991 to protect Iraq’s Kurdish and Shiite populations from Iraqi government air attacks, Iraq has fired upon coalition planes more than 3000 times!
  - His “destruction” of cruise missiles only proves that he has deceived the international community about the existence of these missiles. *How do you destroy something you don’t have?*

- America will not take over Iraq; it will liberate its people and institute local control (just as it did in Afghanistan recently and Kuwait last decade).

For more justifications for an American invasion of Iraq, visit this website:

<http://www.whitehouse.gov/response/disarm.html>

## The Case Against Iraq

By Rep. Mike Pence

If the situation in Iraq seems like a rerun, that is because we have seen this bad movie before.

Saddam Hussein's tyrannical regime has spanned the course of more than two decades, five U.S. presidential administrations and 17 U.N. resolutions.

Twelve years ago he lost a war in devastating fashion and agreed to disarm. However, he did not do so.

He continues in his quest for weapons of mass destruction, undeterred by economic sanctions, isolation from the civilized world, and even cruise missiles striking his facilities. He is a menace who refuses to quit.

We have seen this before from not only Saddam Hussein, but also a brutal German dictator named Adolph Hitler. In the late 1930s and early 40s, Hitler stormed across Europe after failed attempts at "appeasement" by freedom-loving countries in the region.

Amazingly, many today argue for "containment." They say that keeping Saddam Hussein isolated in Iraq will eliminate the threat and keep America safe.

I disagree.

Saddam Hussein has denied, deceived and rebuked the United States of America, the United Nations and freedom-loving democracies across the globe at every opportunity. In fact, U.S. intelligence has even linked the cold-blooded Iraqi dictator to Osama bin Laden and terror networks all over the world.

Given all this evidence, President Bush decided to give the Iraqi dictator one final chance. He went through the appropriate channels at the United Nations, obtained U.N. Resolution 1441 that told Saddam Hussein we know he is in possession of weapons of mass destruction and asked him to disarm or face the gravest of consequences.

Saddam Hussein had his chance. He could have brought his weapons out of hiding and destroyed them in front of the world.

He has not.

Instead of choosing to disarm and keeping the world peaceful, he is deceiving and making the world unsafe.

We have proof of this. The U.N. concluded that Saddam Hussein has likely produced more than 25,000 liters of anthrax and 38,000 liters of botulinum toxin. However, he has given no evidence that he has destroyed this material.

In addition, the U.N. concluded that Iraq has not accounted for 1.5 tons of VX nerve gas—just one drop is enough to kill a person. Our intelligence also estimates that Saddam Hussein has more than 30,000 munitions capable of delivering chemical agents. Inspectors have turned up 16 of them, even though Iraq denied their existence. The other 29,984 of the prohibited munitions have not been accounted for.

According to the International Atomic Energy Agency, Saddam Hussein has been working to acquire nuclear weapons. In fact, the British government reported that he sought significant quantities of uranium from Africa. U.S. intelligence sources report he has attempted to purchase aluminum tubes suitable for nuclear weapons production.

He has not explained any of these activities in a credible way.

Given all of this evidence, one has to wonder if Saddam Hussein is *actively searching* for ways to violate the U.N. agreements.

As President Bush has said, it is time for the U.N. Security Council to decide whether they want to be relevant or not. The case against Iraq is clear.

Iraq is guilty of violating U.N. Resolution 1441, which prohibits Iraq from producing or possessing weapons of mass destruction. However, the resolution gave Iraq a way out. They could comply with the resolution simply by disclosing their weapons and disarming.

Saddam Hussein has not done this. However, the resolution is clear: if Iraq refuses to remedy the situation, it will be found in violation and serious consequences will result.

Therefore, the days of the outlaw regime in Baghdad are rightfully numbered. Given the evidence, Saddam Hussein is guilty as charged.

I am not a combat veteran. My father, however, saw conflict and bloodshed during the Korean War. After listening to my father and veterans with whom I have close relationships, I have come to the conclusion that war is a wicked and violent enterprise.

As President Franklin Delano Roosevelt said in 1936 as Hitler's troops were training, "I have seen war...I hate war." Likewise, I do not welcome war and I do not hope for it.

Nevertheless, there are times when free nations must employ the arsenal of democracy to confront those who would threaten our freedom and the stability of the free world.

We are rapidly approaching the time when the United States once again must lead the civilized world against those who threaten it.

As our troops labor in military encampments at home and abroad, let us labor in prayer on their behalf and on behalf of all freedom loving people around the world.

*Rep. Pence is a member of the House International Relations Committee and serves on the Middle East and Central Asia Subcommittee as well as the International Terrorism, Nonproliferation and Human Rights Subcommittee.*